

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed September 11, 2003, is respectfully requested. Claim 29 has been amended. Claim 63 has been newly added. Claims 29, 31, 43, 46-52, 60-61, and 63 remain pending in this case. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 4, lines 18-33. Therefore, this amendment is made without introducing new matter.

Art Rejections

Claims 29, 31, 43, 46-52, and 60-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Goodnow, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,780,607) and Alivasatos (NATURE 382: 609-611 (August 15, 1996)). Applicants respectfully argue that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the Goodnow and Alivasatos references. The combination of the two references would not yield the claimed invention as amended. The Goodnow reference discloses pyranosyl nucleoside monomer units connected by amide linkages. (Col. 2, lines 48-50). Claim 29, as currently amended, requires the first and second pentopyranose oligomers to have phosphate backbones. Therefore, the asserted combination, if made, would not produce the claimed invention.

In addition, the oligomers described in Goodnow are intended to act as antisense molecules. These molecules have been designed to bind selectively to RNA and DNA (See, e.g., Col. 2, lines 29-44), and would therefore, be helical in nature. As stated in the instant specification, the pRNA oligomers are non-helical in nature (See specification, e.g., page 4, lines

18-21). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's indication that the elected species of the supramolecular nanosystem structure of figure 3 (pentopyranose monomers comprising pyrido[3,2-h]quinazolin-2(1)-one as a chelating agent functional group directly coupled to the pentopyranose). New independent claim 63 has been added, which specifies that the functional group is a pyrido[3,2-h]quinazolin-2(1)-one.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants assert the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (949) 737-2900. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,
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